

pending—as I understand it, five—and there will be other amendments offered today. I urge colleagues to come to the floor to offer their amendments and to ensure we have adequate time by the end of the week to dispose of those amendments that have yet to be offered.

There is a good deal left to be done on the bill. Our focus will be on four areas. The first will be the need for the President to clarify more effectively what our plan is with regard to the use of the \$87 billion, the \$22 billion in particular for reconstruction aid. Today we saw yet another indication of the murkiness with regard to the plan. The administration has made a decision to reverse itself with regard to some of the demands it was making upon the United Nations, and, as a result, we are perhaps more hopeful now that the U.N. could be involved. But without a plan, it makes it very difficult for us to commit the resources. Simply asking for a plan is no substitute for the plan that is required.

Secondly, we want more transparency. Billions and billions of dollars are being spent. Corporations, such as Halliburton and Bechtel and others, have benefited, but we have no way of knowing how much, what will be the profit. When we passed the Marshall plan 50 years ago, we had an explicit prohibition on profiteering. There is no explicit prohibition today. As a result, there is no transparency as well. I think it is critical for us to have a better understanding for the taxpayers and the Congress to know precisely how this money is going to be spent and who is going to benefit and how, if we can, avoid the wasteful expenditures that some have already reported.

The third area we want to concentrate on is the need for a recognition that it ought to be paid for. Whether it is paid for in a way of collateralizing the money requested, if it is asking those at the very top of the income scale to help pay—there has been no request for sacrifice on their part—whether we simply make this a loan, recognizing that somebody is going to have to pay for this, somebody is going to have to be willing to borrow it and give it to Iraq or, the question is, Does it merit at least consideration that we ask Iraq to borrow the money rather than the United States? But somebody will borrow the money. That is the bottom line, and I think we need to recognize that point.

Finally, we also need to recognize important domestic priorities. Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOND, as I understand it, will be offering an amendment to provide the resources necessary to fully fund the Veterans' Administration budget for this year. We are over \$1 billion short. Their message is simply that if we are going to support the troops, we ought to support the veterans—the veterans who are coming home needing health care, veterans who are now being asked to wait up to 6 months for health care, in some

cases. But there are important domestic priorities that ought to be addressed as well.

It is our hope that through this amendment, and other amendments like it, we will be in a better position to say, yes, we want to be supportive of the need to reconstruct, to provide the resources to Iraq, but we also need to recognize the importance of providing those resources as well for important needs here at home, especially those involving veterans.

That will be the debate for the week. I am hopeful that many of these amendments will be adopted; that we can improve the legislation as it was offered and proposed, and, at the end of the day, we have the assurance we know where the money is going; that at least in part it will be paid for; that it recognizes domestic priorities; and that there is a plan, a recognition that we are not going to be there interminably; that we need a clear and much more precise way of analyzing our success or our shortcomings as we commit these resources for the course of the next several months.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, there is another issue I wish to mention. It has to do with a requirement by law that the administration issue a report on currency manipulation by October 15. That is the law. There is a requirement passed by the Congress, signed by the President, that the administration needs to provide a clear understanding of the circumstances, especially involving China and Japan.

We have good reason to believe there is dramatic currency manipulation underway in those two countries; perhaps as much as 40 percent of the current strength of the Chinese yuan can be directly attributed to currency manipulation.

When we passed the law, we said the Congress needed, first, to receive the report from the administration and, second, that the administration needed to lay out its specific plan for dealing, confronting, and effecting ultimately this manipulation so that the extraordinary impact it is having on our trade balances and, therefore, on our economy could be dealt with.

We currently have a \$103 billion trade deficit with China and a \$70 billion trade deficit with Japan. We have lost over 2.5 million manufacturing jobs just in 3 years. A lot of those jobs are going directly to China and Japan, to places in Asia.

The hardest hit industries in the last 2½ years include 67,000 jobs lost in the plastics industry, 15,000 jobs lost in machine tool manufacturing, 21,000 jobs lost in tool and die manufacturing, 100,000 jobs lost in furniture manufacturing, and 139,000 jobs lost in the textile manufacturing industries.

What we are suggesting is that, first, the administration do what the law requires. I come to the floor this morning

very concerned with the reports I have heard that the administration has no intention of releasing its report on time; that there will not be the report required by law that they will provide us with as clear an understanding of the circumstances involving currency manipulation as they can.

We also ask, not only do they offer the report, do they present the report to the Congress, but that they do what the law also requires, which is to enter into formal negotiations with all of those countries for which we are concerned as it relates to currency manipulation.

Finally, we also propose that they pursue a section 301 trade law investigation to set the stage for WTO and further action by the WTO in these cases, unless first we report and, secondly, provide specific and direct bilateral action and then pursue the laws as they are affected in this 301 matter.

There is no way we can begin addressing the very serious problems we have with regard to the manufacturing and service industry job loss we have experienced now in the last 2½ years. October 15 is upon us. The report needs to be provided, and I hope the administration will follow the law and do what the law requires and give us the report and allow us to work with them to enter into formal investigations at the earliest possible date.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Finally, I will talk about our grave concern with regard to the ongoing investigation in the Department of Justice with regard to the leak of CIA agent Valerie Plame. In a letter to the administration, we have noted they need to address five specific missteps we think directly hinder and perhaps may adversely affect the outcome of this investigation.

First, the Department of Justice commenced this investigation on Friday, September 26, but did not ask the White House to preserve all relevant evidence until September 29. No one knows why. For those 4 days, the investigation went on without any formal request of the White House or anybody else to preserve all relevant documents.

Second, after the request, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales asked for yet another delay, until the following day, before any of the relevant evidence would have to be provided. This is a significant departure from standard practice and, again, mysteriously inexplicable.

Third, no request was made of State and Defense Department agencies until October 1, almost a week following the request made of the White House. Again, that is completely inexplicable. What is even more troubling is that the Wall Street Journal reported that a request would be made to the Department of Defense and the State Department the very day it was done, again